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caves of Porto Rico are some bird bones which are being studied by Dr. Alexander Wetmore and pending the completion of his report he has published descriptions of five new species—*Polyborus latebrosus* (p. 77); *Gallinago anthonyi* (p. 78); *Oreopeleia larva* (p. 79); *Tyto cavatica* (p. 80); and *Corvus pumilis* (p. 81).—W. S.

Recent Papers by Oberholser.—In a paper on new forms of *Cyornis*¹ Dr. H. C. Oberholser describes a new subspecies of *C. rubeculoides*, two of *C. banyumas* and two of *C. elegans*, while his ninth instalment of nomenclatural changes² comprise *Dendrocitta celadina* (p. 83) a new name for *D. sinensis* (Lath.); *Motacilla rhadinura* (p. 83) for *M. longicauda* Rupp.; *Eremomela griseoflava perimacha* (p. 84) for *E. flaviventris* (Burchell); *Turdoides polioplocamus* (p. 84) for *Crateropus griseus* (Gm.) and *Arrenga glaucina* (Temm.) for *A. cyanea* all being preoccupied.—W. S.

Todd on New South American Birds.—Mr. W. E. C. Todd proposes in this paper³ sixteen new forms from various parts of South America and Mexico. While some of these are adequately described there are seven in which the diagnosis consists of only two or three lines, including the trinomial name of the form with which the new one is compared. Such descriptions will in all probability prove a hindrance to any comprehensive treatment of the groups to which they belong, until Mr. Todd presents adequate descriptions or until the types are borrowed. One diagnosis reads simply "similar [to an already described form] but general coloration obviously darker and blacker" nothing further except the data of the type.

We have commented upon this sort of practice before and feel, with a large number of other ornithologists, very strongly on the subject. We fear it is useless to hope for that millenium when systematic writers will join hands in an effort to advance the science in which they work in every way possible, instead of retarding its progress by publishing these careless and slovenly diagnoses. Meanwhile why does not the Carnegie Museum take some steps to provide means of publication so that the valuable collections which it is constantly securing might be promptly and adequately described?—W. S.

Chapman on New Birds from South America.—The American Museum of Natural History has recently established a new publication under the title of "Novitates" for the immediate publication of new species, etc. The second number is devoted to the presentation of descriptions of eight new South American birds by Dr. Frank M. Chapman. As usual his descriptions are full and satisfactory and in marked contrast

¹ Descriptions of Five New Species of *Cyornis*. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington. 33, pp. 85–88. December 30, 1920.

² Mutanda Ornithologica. IX. *Ibid.* pp. 83–84.

³ Descriptions of Apparently New South American Birds. By W. E. Clyde Todd. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington. 33, pp. 71–76. December 30, 1920.